HAYACHINE!

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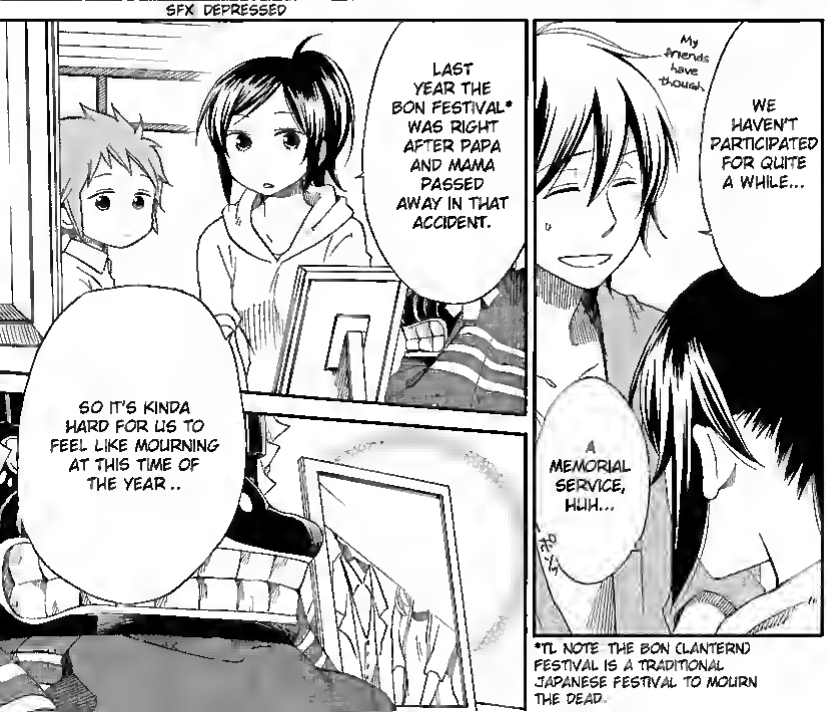
Chapter 12: Those who come, those who wait.

SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
SFX: SLIDE
I'M HOME!
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
Hi.
Welcome back.
Say,
IT'S PRETTY LIVELY IN THE TOWN IS SOMETHING GOING ON?
Yeah.
The Andon* Festival started yesterday.
SFX: RUSTLE, FLINCH
TL NOTE: AN ANDON IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE LAMP MADE OF PAPER.
IT'S A FESTIVAL THAT WAS ORIGINALLY HELD TO REMEMBER THE PEOPLE WHO PASSED AWAY IN THE GREAT FAMINES OF THE TENMEI AND TENPOU ERAS*.
FOUR TEAMS FROM OHASAMA EACH BUILD AN ANDON FESTIVAL FLOAT AND THEN PARADE THROUGH THE TOWN.
IT'S A MAJOR EVENT WITH STRONG ROOTS IN THIS PART OF JAPAN.
TL NOTE: IN THE LATE 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURIES.

I WAS SO IMMERSED IN FINISHING THIS LOCAL HISTORY BOOK I BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY THAT I MISSED THE FIRST DAY OF THE FESTIVAL...!
And it's only once a year... Uuurgh...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SO SILENT EARLIER.
Uwaaah, what should I dooo!?
Wow...
IT'S BEEN CONTINUOUSLY HELD FOR OVER 200 YEARS NOW.

SFX DEPRESSED


LAST YEAR THE BON FESTIVAL* WAS RIGHT AFTER PAPA AND MAMA PASSED AWAY IN THAT ACCIDENT.
SO IT'S KINDA HARD FOR US TO FEEL LIKE MOURNING AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR..
My friends have thought.
WE HAVEN'T PARTICIPATED FOR QUITE A WHILE...
A MEMORIAL SERVICE, HUH...

*TL NOTE: THE BON (LANTERN) FESTIVAL IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE FESTIVAL TO MOURN THE DEAD.

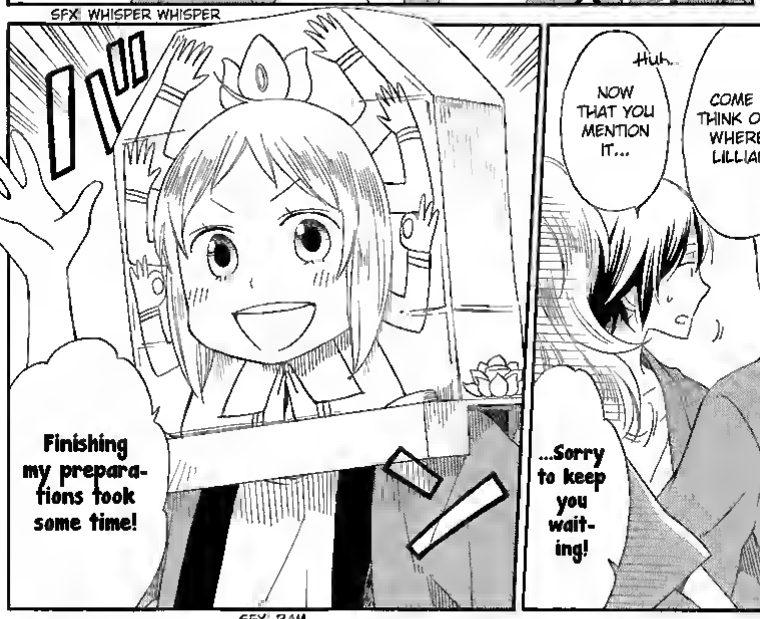
They might look calm on the outside,
but it has just been a little over a year since then...
IT MUST BE PAINFUL TO BE REMINDED OF ALL THAT'S HAPPENED.
IF I COULD JUST HELP THEM FORGET ABOUT IT...
Yeah, sorry
Are you okay...?
THERE ARE LOTS OF STALLS, SO IT'LL BE FUN!
If I ask Shin, we might even be allowed to pull a sleep!
Really?
Goldfishes
Target Shooting
Bounce
Takoyaki
Cotton Candy
Woow!
For real!? I'm totally hyped up about this!!
...YOSH!
LET'S ALL GO TO THE ANDON FESTIVAL TOGETHER TOMORROW!

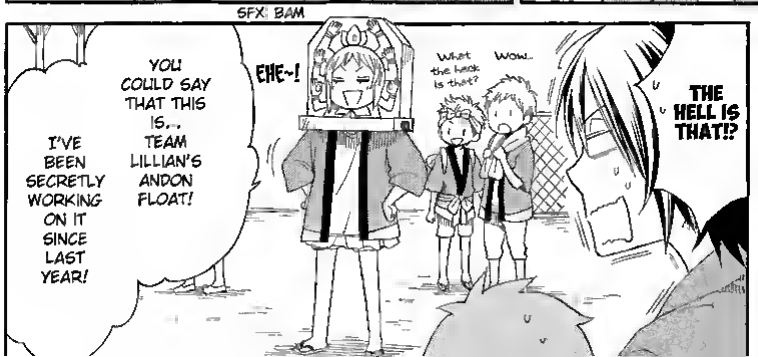
Hey-!
LISTEN, LILLIAN!
WE'RE DOING THIS TO MAKE THOSE THREE ENJOY THEMSELVES!
Ooh..!
SINCE THIS SEASON BRINGS BACK BAD MEMORIES FOR SHIMA AND THE OTHERS
SFX WHISPER WHISPER
SO HELP ME WITH THIS!
...GOT IT!
SFX NOD
I gotta waste no time and prepare for tomorrow!
Foooo!!
This sounds fun
CAN I REALLY TRUST HER ...!?
SFX JUMP
And so, the next day.
Wow
SO THIS IS SHIN-SAN'S TEAM'S HEADQUARTERS, HUH...
あい
あい
ざわ
ざわ
SFX CHATTER CHATTER
SFX CHATTER CHATTER

HELLO.
Yo!
Oh!
THANKS FOR COMING.
EXCUSE US FOR BOTHERING YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN.
Hello!
Hello
HAVING YOU GUYS JOIN THE KIDS AND PULL THE FLOAT AIN'T A BOTHER AT ALL!
HERE, A COAT.
WELL THEN, YOU GUYS ARE GONNA
PULL THIS FLOAT TODAY.

Wooow!
It's huge!
AND IT'S ALL MADE OF PAPER!
Amaz-ing...
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE REGION WORKED TOGETHER FOR A WHOLE MONTH TO MAKE THIS.

I'LL EXPLAIN TO YOUR FRIENDS HOW THINGS WORK HERE, SO DON'T WORRY.
Yeah.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU FOR TODAY
Awesome.
Really?


SFX: WHISPER WHISPER
Finishing my preparations took some time!
...Sorry to keep you waiting!
Huh..
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'S LILLIAN?


SFX: BAM
I'VE BEEN SECRETLY WORKING ON IT SINCE LAST YEAR!
YOU COULD SAY THAT THIS IS... TEAM LILLIAN'S ANDON FLOAT!
EHE~!
What the heck is that?
Wow..
THE HELL IS THAT!?

THEY'RE LAUGHING AND HAVING FUN!!
Aha haha!
IT LOOKS WEIRD!
GOOD JOB, LILLIAN!
WHAT A FANCIFUL WAY TO MAKE USE OF THAT BLONDE HAIR!!
A MAIZE COB!!
THE BACK SIDE IS A PLEA FOR A LARGE CROP FROM OUR GARDEN,
SFX: WHOOSH
It looks like a spider!
AND THE FRONT SIDE IS THE THOUSAND-ARMED KANNON!
WAAAAAAH!!
Huh -!?
SFX: GRAB
AND TO PRAY FOR YOUR MOM AND DAD TO REST IN PEACE, HERE I HAVE...
!!?
WHAT'S THE PHOTO OF THEIR PARENTS DOING HERE!?

SHE'S NOT REFLECTING ON HER ACTIONS AT ALL, IS SHE...
I'll do my best!
Yay!
YO, WE GOTTA GET GOING.
YEAH, AND?
Hey!
I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, DIDN'T I? TO STOP MAKING THEM FEEL DEPRESSED!
I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER,
SO THAT SHE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING WEIRD AND MAKE THOSE THREE FEEL DEPRESSED AGAIN.
Yaaaar!
Yaaaar!
SFX: BOOM BOOM BOOM
Yaaaar!
Wow!
THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE...!
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

SFX: BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

I was worried for a second,
but I'm glad they seem to be enjoying themselves now.
RIGHT?
MAKES CONSTRUCTING IT AN EVEN MORE AMAZING FEAT!
THAT THIS FLOAT CAN FIT SO MANY PEOPLE

Why me...
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
ケラ ケラ
HEY, THIS IS A LEGIT ANDON!
SFX: LAUGH
ALSO, IF I PRESS THIS SWITCH...
カ
Click
SFX: FLASH
どーん!!
HOW'S THAT!?
Pellet drums!?
Wait, that's just you piggy-backing her!
SFX: DON

ドテ
KOZU-EEEE-EEE!!!
SFX: THUD
ぎゃあぁ
あぁ
ISH TOO BRI-!!
(IT'S TOO BRIGHT-!!)
Hyan!!
SFX: GYAAAAAAA

I THINK THE ONE WHO SUFFERED THE MOST DAMAGE IS KOZUE THOUGH...
Ah~ she's even getting yelled at...
HEY, YOU TWO! STOP PLAYING AROUND AND START PULLING!
Phew...
Mmmm
THIS NEEDS SOME IMPROVE-MENT.
THE DAMAGE I SUFFER IS TOO HIGH.

SFX: FLINCH

SFX: WHOOSH

Yup, yup
It's been a while!
HER MOOD BRIGHTENED UP. WHAT A RELIEF...!
KOZUE, I'M SURE YOUR MOM AND DAD WOULD BE HAPPY TOO IF THEY COULD SEE YOU TWO TOGETHER LIKE THIS!
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN!!
YOU LOOK LOVELY IN YOUR YUKATA TOO, FUU...
SHE'S SMILING SO HAPPILY!!
SFX SHINE
HEY, I TOLD YOU TO NOT RUIN THEIR MOOD EARLIER, DIDN'T I?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, RIGHT...?
Ah! SURE!
THEY'RE LIGHTING THE TOR-CHES!
SFX BLAZE
WOOOW!
Awe-some!
SHE'S NOT LISTEN-ING!!
SFX DASH

I can't lower my guard
Yo-!
We brought refreshments!
IT'S AKIRA-OJISAN'S FRIENDS FROM THE ROTATING SAVINGS PARTY...!
AH-
Oooh!
GOOD JOB OVER THERE!

YOU FOOLS!
WHO'S SUPPOSED TO PULL THE FLOAT WHILE YOU EAT!?
Gulp
There's lots!
IT'S STUFF FROM THE FESTIVAL STALLS
JUST EAT WHATEVER YOU LIKE!

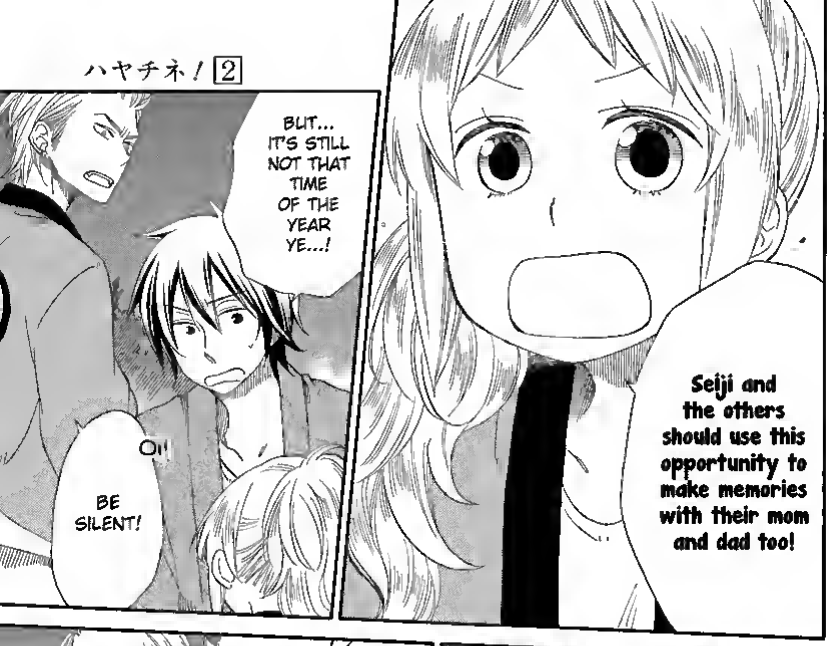
SFX. YAAAAAY
It's a shame though
Ah
YEAH.
HE'S RIGHT, LET'S EAT THEM LATER.

IS THERE SOME FOOD YOUR MOM AND DAD LIKED AMONG THOSE?
THEN JUST TAKE IT HOME AND OFFER IT TO THE-
EEEEEEEEEM!!?
Wow!!
Ah...!
LILLIAN'S ANDON IS FLYING!!

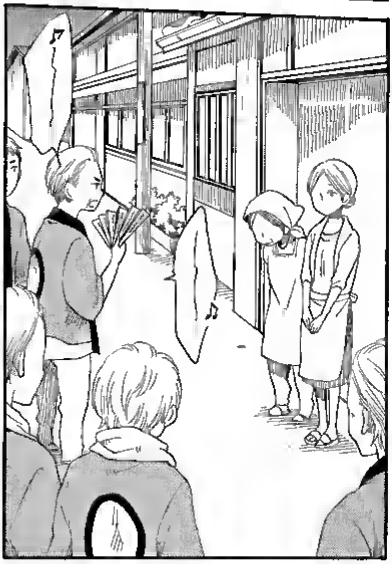
SFX: GWAAH

IT'S BEEN JUST A LITTLE OVER A YEAR SINCE SEIJI AND THE OTHERS' PARENTS PASSED AWAY!
SO STOP REMINDING THEM OF THEIR PAINFUL LOSS ALREADY!
YOU'RE DOING THIS ON PURPOSE, AREN'T YOU!?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!?

THE BON FESTIVAL... IS THE ONE DAY OF THE YEAR WHERE THE DEAD COME BACK TO LIFE, RIGHT!?
...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! YOU DON'T GET IT, AKIRA!


BUT... IT'S STILL NOT THAT TIME OF THE YEAR YE...!
Oi!
BE SILENT!
Seiji and the others should use this opportunity to make memories with their mom and dad too!

Everyone's quietly listening.
...WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
IT'S A MEMORIAL SONG FOR THE DEAD.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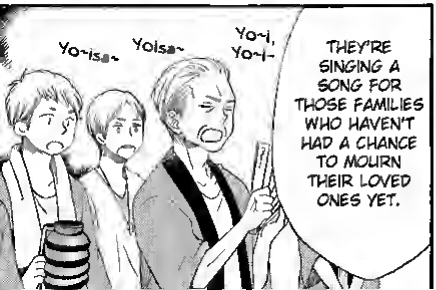

Yo~isa~
Yoisa~
Yo~i, Yo~i-
THEY'RE SINGING A SONG FOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO MOURN THEIR LOVED ONES YET.

MOURNING OUR LOVED ONES.
Yo~isa~ Eeee~
FOR THE LAST 200 YEARS.
THAT'S HOW WE'VE BEEN MOURNING OUR ANCES-TORS AND LOVED ONES

I thought that taking them to this festival would possibly cheer them up, but...
!

SFX SNIFF

Yo~isa~! E~~~i!!
I guess that was a foolish assumption.
Yoisa~! Yo~isa~!!
GUYS.. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK IF IT'S TOO PAINFU-...

……！
Hic
Hic
Hic
TEAM LILLIAN IS SINGING A SONG TOO!
A SONG FOR YOUR MOM AND DAD!
SFX: DRIP
APOLO-GIZE!
EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST FOOLING AROUND, THIS IS JUST TOO INCONSIDE-RATE...!
...LIL-LIAN!!
SFX: CLATTER

LAST YEAR... WE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO PROPERLY MOURN FOR OUR PARENTS.
AND THIS YEAR WE CAN'T GO TO VISIT THEIR GRAVE IN TOKYO...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, OJI-SAN!
WE'RE FINE...!
SFX WIPE
THAT'S WHY WE WERE JEALOUS OF THE PEOPLE WHO COULD MOURN THEIR LOVED ONES HERE.
THANK YOU, LILLIAN.
PAPA AND MAMA WILL SURELY BE HAPPY NOW!

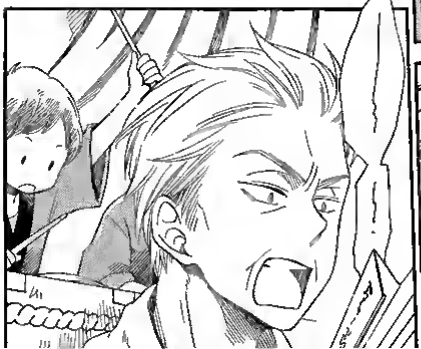
...IT'S JUST AS LILLIAN SAID.
THEY DIDN'T WANT TO FORGET THEIR MEMORIES AT ALL.
SFX: CLATTER
THEN, LET'S GO. THE MAIN EVENT IS JUST ABOUT TO START!
DON'T MENTION IT!
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
SFX: BOOM BOOM BOOM
WOW-
THERE'S PEOPLE EVERY-WHERE!
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
they became able to face them up front.
Before I even noticed,

I've never seen such a large number of people before...
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

THEY'RE BLOCKING ALL THE ROADS. IT'S SO INTENSE...!
Wooow!
THE FLOATS ARE COMING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS!

So cool!
Wah-
IT'S GRANDPA KOSHINO!

TO CONCLUDE THE FESTIVAL,
THERE'LL BE ANOTHER MEMORIAL SONG RIGHT HERE.
I SEE...!



THIS YEAR'S SONG WILL BE PERFORMED
BY THE XX TEAM

Yoisa~
Yo~~~i
Yo~~~isa~
Yo~~~i
パチ
パチ
パチ
パチ
SFX: CHEER
SFX: CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
Yo~~~i
Yasa~
すっ
おい
おい
T'was good, huh?
YEAH.
パチ
パチ
パチ
SFX: CLAP CLAP CHATTER CHATTER

ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
...SORRY FOR THROWING DOWN YOUR ANDON, LILLIAN.
Now, the Noats will be slowly returning to their respective team's headquarters.
Yeah.
So it fulfilled its use!
Don't worry 'bout it!
Andons are only meant to be used once anyway!
Aahha~ u ush that's not what I oh well

SFX: CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

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